

The Azimuth Institute

Directional Study Notes

2 Peter 3:14-18

11/3/15

Looking Forward

vv.14-15a *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; (15) and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation*

The encouragement for us who believe is that we should be ***“looking forward to these things”***.

Jesus said in Luke 12:37 *“Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.”*

And while we are looking forward to these things, we should ***be diligent***.

We are diligent by setting our hearts on the things of Heaven and not of earth.

We are diligent by walking godly ***in peace, without spot and blameless***.

And while waiting patiently for our Lord’s return we must understand that the ***longsuffering of our Lord is salvation***.

While waiting patiently for Him, we should take advantage of His longsuffering to serve Him and to bring others in with us.

Illustration: Spurgeon said, “We are puzzled at the longsuffering which causes so weary a delay. One of the reasons is that we have not much longsuffering ourselves. We think that we do well to be angry with the rebellious, and so we prove ourselves to be more like Jonah than Jesus. A few have learned to be patient and pitiful to the ungodly, but many more are of the mind of James and John, who would have called fire from heaven upon those who rejected the Savior. We are in such a hurry.”

Our Beloved Brother Paul

vv.15b-16 *as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, (16) as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

Notice that Peter here affirms the teachings of his brother Paul.

Many have tried to insinuate that Peter and Paul had an ongoing rivalry because of what happened in Galatians 2:11-21 when Paul rebuked Peter publicly for playing the hypocrite by eating with Gentiles and then pretending like he wanted no part of them when his fellow Jews showed up.

So, apparently he had moved on since this confrontation.

Notice he acknowledges that some things that Paul wrote are *hard to understand*.

We must always understand that just because of passage of Scripture does not make sense to us at the moment does not mean that the passage is wrong or that there is a contradiction.

I believe that the things that we do not understand today, God has reserved them for tomorrow for a reason.

I.e. our maturity level, place in life, circumstances, etc...

Peter doesn't specifically say what these hard to understand things were, but they could have been any number of things that Paul wrote about (e.g., the place of women in worship and their roles in the church, his apostleship, grace verses work, etc).

But he does say that these same people have taken some of these hard to understand passages and twisted them *to their own destruction*.

The word *twist* means to distort or overstretch.

It literally means to "put to the rack."

In other words, they are making the text say something that it does not, and they do so to *their own destruction*.

We see it all the time today in the prosperity gospel that teaches that God wants us to be healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Conclusion

vv.17-18 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Now, he says, *“since you know this beforehand”*, be steadfast and do be *“led away with the error of the wicked.”*

How do we that? – By *“growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

There is an old expression, “If you are not growing, you’re going.”

Illustration: There is an old hymn that says, “More about Jesus would I know, More of His grace to others show; More of His saving fullness see, More of His love Who died for me.

More, more about Jesus, More, more about Jesus; More of His saving fullness see, More of His love Who died for me. More about Jesus let me learn, More of His holy will discern; Spirit of God, my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me.

Notice, Peter ends his epistle with the word, *“Amen”* which means, “so be it.”

It’s been said that the word “amen” expresses four things.

1. It expresses the desire of the heart.
2. It expresses the affirmation of our faith
3. It expresses the joy of our heart.
4. It expresses the declaration of resolution.

Let’s say all together, “Amen!”